the visit of Bangladesh Minister for Communications to India from May 2—9, 1993 and discussions held in Delhi and Tripura, an understanding was reached between India and Bangladesh on the repatriation of Chakma and other tribal refugees to Bangladesh.

(b) Implementation of the agreement has not commenced.

(c) The main difficulty in implementing the agreement was that the refugees remained unconvinced about the assurances given by the Government of Bangladesh about their safety and security in Bangladesh and also about the rehabilitation package offered.

The refugee leaders maintained that unless the Government of Bangladesh conceded the 13-Point Memorandum submitted to Bangladesh Minister for Communications during his visit to Tripura from May 8—9, 1993, the refugees 'would' not go back. They also demanded that the Government of Bangladesh should sign a repatriation agreement with the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sangati Samiti (PCJSS), the apex political body of CHT tribals and called for involving UNHCR in the repatriation process.

Visit of Israel's Foreign Minister

272. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Israel Mr. Shimao Pares paid a visit to India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Foreign Minister of Israel Mr. Shimon Peres paid an official visit to India from May 17 to 19, 1993.

(b) Possibilities of cooperation in areas like agriculture, water management, solar energy, trade, tourism and culture were discussed. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Three Agreements on Tourism, Culture, Siene and Tehnology, an MOU on Eonomic Cooperation, and Agreed Minutes for consultation between the Foreign Minisries of both Government were signed during the visit.

This was the first high political-level visit since the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel in January 1992. It made a good beginning for developing a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.

Missile Attack on Iran by USA

273. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA launched a savage-missile attack against the Command post of Iraqi intelligence service;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) What is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) In the early morning of June 27, 1993, the United States launched 23 Tomahawk Cruise missiles against the Head Quarters of Iraqi Intelligence Service. The attack also caused death of 8 civilians acording to Iraqi reports, and damage to property in the vicinity.

(c) An official statement was issued on June 28, 1993 expressing Government of India's stand on this issue. The statement is annexed.

Official Spokesman's Statement on the U. S. Missile Attack on Baghdad

The Government of India is against state-sponsored terrorism. We are ourselve victims of state-sponsored terrorism from across the border in the West. We support action against state-sponsored terrorism. On the other hand, we are concerned about the violation of national sovereignty. Such phenomena can affect peace and stability in the West Asian region, where assiduous efforts are on to further the peace process. We have sympathy for the people of Iraq and regret that the civilian population has suffered. We hope that all disputes will be settled peacefully without resort to force.

New Delhi

June 28, 1993.

Expansion of Food Processing Industry

274. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the scope for expansion of food processing industry in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some firms in multinationals have shown interest in investing in the industry;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(e) reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Studies conducted by various agencies/government organisations in different sectors of food processing industries from time to time indicate good scope for expansion of food processing industries in the country. While same sectoral studies are available for food processing sector, the Ministry under Plan Schemes is providing assistance to State Governments and other institutions and organisations for conducting studies in food processing sector for further development.

(c) to (e) As per the Statement of Industrial Policy of July, 1991 Foreign Companies are permitted to invest in the Food Processing Sector as this would being attendant advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, introduction of modern managerial techniques and new possibilities of promotion of export. Foreign companies have shown interest in investing in food processing industries in India and a number of proposals for manufacture of fruits and vegetable products, poultry and egg products, milk products, deep sea fishing and fish processing potable alcohol, beer, snack foods, soft drinks, chewing gums, coca-based products, etc. from foreign companies/NRIs from switzerland, Holland, Germany, USA, Singapore, Finland, Italy, Belgium, Thailand, France, Japan, Denmark, Israel, Hongkong have been approved.

संयुक्त क्षेत्र में प्रसंस्करण-एककों को सहायता

275. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :

क्या **खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने फलों और सब्जियों के लिए फसलोत्तर बुनियादी प्रसंस्करण सुविधायें स्थापित करने सहित गैर सरकारी और संयुक्त क्षेत्र के प्रसंस्करण एककों को सहायता उपलब्ध कराने हेतु विभिन्न योजनायें तैयार की हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उपर्युक्त योजनाओं को कार्यान्वित करने हेतु क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं ?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरुण गोगोई) : (क) और (ख) खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय ने अनेक योजना स्कीमें तैयार की हैं जिन्हें आठवीं योजनावधि के दौरान कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है। इन स्कीमों में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों, संयुक्त क्षेत्र के